

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STUDY FINDS QUEBEC'S FUTURE SHAPED BY EXTERNAL FORCES

1. TWO-YEAR STUDY JUST RELEASED ON PROSPECTIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUTURE OF QUEBEC (1975-1995) FINDS PRINCIPAL IMPACTS WILL STEM FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES. STUDY WAS UNDERTAKEN AT REQUEST OF AND UNDERWRITTEN BY PREVIOUS GOQ'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BUT COMPLETED WITH SUPPORT FROM PRESENT GOVERNMENT. FIRST VOLUME DOES NOT ADDRESS QUESTION OF POLITICAL FUTURE.

2. OUTSIDE FORCES SHAPING QUEBEC ARE SAID TO BE: GROWTH OF MULTINATIONALS, U.S. DOMINATION OF NORTH AMERICAN ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT CONCENTRATED OUTSIDE QUEBEC, CULTURAL BOMBARDMENT FROM U.S. STUDY NOTES THAT "ENGLISH NORTH AMERICA" HAS POPULATION 39 TIMES LARGER AND GNP 43 TIMES LARGER THAN THAT OF QUEBEC WHICH PERFORCE GIVES IT DOMINANT POSITION.

3. OTHER FINDINGS INCLUDE: (1) THE VALUE SYSTEM OF QUEBEC ACTS AS A REIN ON EXTERNAL INFLUENCES AND HAS ENABLED IT TO RESIST COMPLETE ASSIMILATION; (2) ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGIC STRUCTURES CAN BE MODIFIED TO COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE DESPITE THE FACT MOST
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TECHNOLOGY IS NOW IMPORTED AND THE MARGIN OF MANOEUVRE IS NOT ENORMOUS; (3) URBAN AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATION IS ALMOST TOTALLY SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL INFLUENCES AND QUEBEC HAS BEEN VERY SLOW TO MANIFEST ECOLOGICAL CONCERN.

4. STUDY IDENTIFIES TENDENCIES QUEBEC SHARES WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED AREAS AS WELL AS THOSE UNIQUE TO THIS REGION.

AMONG THE FORMER ARE THE GROWTH OF THE THIRD WORLD, WOMEN IN THE LABOR MARKET, DEMOGRAPHIC SLOWDOWN, THE GROWING PLACE OF SCIENCE IN DAILY LIFE, INDUSTRIALIZATION OF CULTURE, SHARP INCREASE IN PERSONAL INCOME, THE AGING OF THE POPULATION, THE GROWING PRESENCE OF THE STATE. IT LISTS AS LATENT FACTORS THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE FUTURE THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION, INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, THE NATURE, QUANTITY AND PRICE OF ENERGY AS WELL AS THE ISSUE OF NUCLEARISM, AND THE EMERGENCE OF ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

5. PROSPECTIVE ELEMENTS AFFECTING SPECIFICALLY QUEBEC INCLUDE: THE RELATIVE DECLINE (COMPARED TO ITS NEIGHBORS) OF THE ECONOMY OF MONTREAL AND QUEBEC AND THE DURABILITY, BREADTH AND AMVIVAL-ENCE OF QUEBEC NATIONALISM WHICH DRAINS ENERGIES AND "SHUFFLES THE CARDS" IN THE FIGHT FOR POWER AND RICHES THAT THE SOCIAL GROUPS OF QUEBEC ARE NOW CONDUCTING. AMONG THE OTHER FACTORS THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE FUTURE ARE TH EMERGENCE OF A NEW WHITE COLLAR ELITE (IN WHICH THE RESEARCHERS PUT THEMSELVES) AND NEW PRESSURE GROUPS, THE ELECTION OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS, AND THE END OF THE IDEOLOGIC CONSENSUS THAT EXISTED IN THE PAST.

6. STUDY IF VOLUMINOUS, REPORTEDLY SOME FIVE THOUSAND PAGES, AND WILL BE FOLLOWED IN ABOUT TWO MORE YEARS WITH EQUIVALENT MATERIAL ADDRESSING POLITICAL OPTIONS, CONTAINING "POSSIBLE" AND "DESIRABLE" SCENARIOS. ONE "POSSIBLE SCENARIO", IF THINGS ARE LEFT TO EVOLVE NATURALLY, IS REPORTED TO BE GRIM:
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THE YOUNG WILL HAVE LEFT, RESEARCH WILL HAVE DIED, THE TWENTY YEARS BETWEEN 1975 AND 1995 WILL HAVE BEEN MARKED BY PERMANENT CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE DEFENDERS OF QUEBEC VALUES AND THOSE OF THE PAN-CANADIAN OR NORTH AMERICAN VALUES. THE SECOND STUDY WILL, HOWEVER, SET FORTH VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES, AMONG WHICH ONE WOULD HOPE TO FIND SOMETHING LESS CATAclySMIC. FOR THE MOMENT THE RESEARCHERS REFUSE TO SPECULATE WHETHER THE FUTURE WILL BE BETTER OR WORSE, CONFINING THEMSELVES TO THE NOTION "IT WILL PROBABLY BE DIFFERENT."

7. RESEARCH WAS CARRIED OUT BE RATHER PRESTIGIOUS GROUP OF ABOUT FORTY ACADEMICS, ENGINEERS, AND SOCIOLOGISTS DRAWN FROM THE MAJOR UNIVERSITIES AND PRIVATE LIFE, BACKSTOPPED BY DOZENS OF OTHERS. THIS PERMITTED A "GLOBAL" APPROACH, RATHER THAN THE MORE COMMON SECTORAL STUDIES VIEWING QUEBEC IN A VACUUM.

8. COMMENT: STUDY HAS DRAWN LESS ATTENTION FROM MEDIA THAN ITS FINDINGS WOULD APPEAR TO WARRANT, ALTHOUGH LE DEVOIR FRONT PAGED LENGTHY SYNOPSIS AND ALSO CARRIED SEVERL ARTICLES OF ANALYSIS. THESIS THAT QUEBEC CANNOT CONTROL FUTURE, ALTHOUGH IT MAY AMELIORATE SOME UNDESIRABLE FACTORS, SERIOUSLY UNDERCUTS MUCH OF PQ ARGUMENTATION FOR MAKING PROVINCE TRULY QUEBECOIS

IN ALL ASPECTS IF ONLY GIVEN "SOVEREIGN" POWER. ON OTHER HAND,
MUCH USE OF IT BY FEDERALISTS COULD STIMULATE LATENT ANTI-
AMERICANISM SINCE BASIC THRUST APPEARS TO BE NOT THAT THE REST
OF CANADA (AND/OR THE REST OF THE WORLD) IS SUCH A DETERMINANT
BUT THAT WE ARE.
HARPER

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